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make the work the starting-point for a careful study of the style of any one of a number of authors. Prof. Hill's taste, though severe, is discriminating.

Rarely does any ambiguity or inexactness mar the expression. One of a few unfortunate sentences seems to me to come on p. 204: "A liar takes most pains with the most important parts of his story, but a *man of veracity* (even he) passes rapidly over things which seem to him things of course."

The appendix on punctuation is remarkably clear and condensed.

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Verschollene Handschriften.—

Under this heading, Dr. H. Koerting, Privatdozent in Romance Philology, at the University of Leipsic, calls attention, in the last number of the *Zschr. f. nfrz. Spr. u. Litt.* (1885, Suppl. III. pp. 78-85), to the possibility of there being valuable Old French manuscripts among the collection still existing at the castle of Anet, near Ezy-Anet, France. In the reign of Henry II. a valuable library was founded at this castle, which existed intact as late as 1734. In a work of this date, entitled *De l'usage des Romans, etc.*, the Abbé Lenglet gives, among the list of books then contained in this library, the names of numerous *Romans* in manuscript. These MSS. have not since come to light. The castle was partially destroyed at the Revolution; and it is as yet unknown whether or not these valuable MSS. remained uninjured.

Dr. Koerting has lately tried to secure permission from the present owner of the castle to make a thorough examination of the books still existing there, in order to know if any of the missing MSS. are among them. He made a visit to Anet last August for that purpose, but his design was thwarted by the seemingly intentional efforts on the part of the proprietor, to preclude any possible discovery of MSS. by a German philologist.

William Mountfort's Farce of Doctor Faustus has just been edited by Dr. Otto Francke, of Weimar. It is a handy little volume, forming Part III. of Vollmöller's *Englische Sprach und Literaturdenkmale* (Heilbronn, Gebr. Henninger), in which the text is accompanied by ex-

planatory Notes, and an Introduction treating of Mountfort as an Actor and a Poet, of the History of the Play of Doctor Faustus in England, and of the Relationship between Mountfort's Faustus and that of Marlowe. The text is an exact reprint from the old edition of 1697 bearing the title: 'The Life and Death of Doctor Faustus, Made into a Farce, by Mr. Mountfort. With the Humours of Harlequin and Scaramouche, As they were several times Acted By Mr. Lee and Mr. Jevon, at the Queens Theatre in Dorset Garden. Newly Revived, At the Theatre, in Lincolns Inn Fields, With Songs and Dances between the Acts, London. Printed and sold by E. Whitlock near Stationers Hall, 1697. Price, 6 d.'

Prétendues Origines des Canadiens-français, Par Benjamin Sulte.*

In this paper M. Sulte indignantly protests against the senseless and obstinate perpetuation, by his fellow-countrymen little less than by outsiders who should know better, of wild notions and purely fictitious scandals regarding the settlement of eastern Canada by French colonists. Documents exist in abundance, and the most cursory examination of these shows conclusively that the French of Quebec are of the most honorable origin and almost entirely untainted by intermixture of Indian blood. The *Métis* stand quite apart from the French of Quebec.

M. Sulte deserves our warmest sympathy. In the consideration of our French neighbors simple justice demands that we free ourselves from prejudices utterly groundless.

OBITUARY.

Miss Annie B. Irish, professor of the German language and Literature at Wooster University, Ohio, died Feb. 12, aged 28 years, of scarlet fever. Miss Irish was the daughter of the late Col. O. H. Irish, chief of the bureau of printing and engraving under the administration of President Hayes. While in Washington Miss Irish was the private secretary of Secretary Schurz, and librarian of the Department of the Interior.

*From the Transactions of the Royal Society, Canada, Section I, 1885. Pp. 13-28 (lu le 28 mai, 1885).